

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Presented by Council President Pro Tem Stephen Whitburn, Councilmember
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October 2021

WHEREAS, domestic violence affects millions of people worldwide, of every gender, race, religion, culture, and income level; **and**

WHEREAS, in the United States more than 12 million people each year – an average of 24 per minute – are victims of rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner, and more than 30 percent of adults in California will experience intimate partner violence or stalking in their lifetime; **and**

WHEREAS, domestic violence in San Diego County continues to rise, with nearly 9,000 cases reported in the past year, an increase of five percent from the year before; **and**

WHEREAS, the City meets the needs of domestic violence victims through *Your Safe Place -- A Family Justice Center*, which was the first of its kind in the nation to provide free, comprehensive and confidential services to anyone affected by family violence; **and**

WHEREAS, *Your Safe Place* and its community partners provide counseling, legal advice, assistance with restraining orders, advocacy, forensic medical exams, assistance with emergency housing, and safety planning; **and**

WHEREAS, *Your Safe Place* serves thousands of vulnerable victims annually, and its services remained steadfast during the COVID-19 pandemic; **and**

WHEREAS, responding to the epidemic of sex trafficking in San Diego, *Your Safe Place* in 2019 opened its doors to survivors of this forced slavery and offers specialized services designed to help them reclaim their lives; **and**

WHEREAS, the presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500 percent, and more than one-third of the 700 Gun Violence Restraining Orders obtained by the San Diego City Attorney's Office involve threats to family members and current and former partners; **and**

WHEREAS, to protect domestic violence victims and their families from gun violence tragedies, *Your Safe Place* has recently expanded services to assist victims in obtaining Gun Violence Restraining Orders to remove firearms from their abusers; **and**

WHEREAS, the City of San Diego and its City Council are committed to ending the epidemic of domestic violence in America and promoting public awareness of the free services available to every victim of domestic violence, family violence, elder abuse, sexual assault, or sex trafficking in San Diego; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Council of the City of San Diego, that this Council, for and on behalf of the people of San Diego, does hereby proclaim **October 2021** to be **"Domestic Violence Awareness Month"** in the City of San Diego.